



April 25, 2021 at 9:30am—Fourth Sunday of Easter
youtube.com/richfieldumc



ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Blue Bossa”

(bold = in unison)

by Kenny Dorham

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Love one another, even when love involves risk.

We love as God loves.

Love and care for others, even when caring is hard.

We love and care as God loves and cares for us.

Love in truth and action.

By this we are known as children of God.

Gathering Hymn

“Grace Alone”

TFWS Hymnal No. 2162

**Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we can make is only by his grace.**

**Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.**

Refrain:

Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.

Christ in us, our cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone.

**Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,
everywhere we share his peace is only by His grace.**

every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away,

every sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace. [Refrain]

Centering Prayer

Alicia Owens

Shepherd of love, guide our thoughts and our actions, that we too might become shepherds of love. Speak to our hearts as we listen this day, that our hearts may expand and embrace all of your sheep. Love us fully, that we might love all of the flocks of your world as fully as we are loved by you. In your shepherding love we pray, hear us in our Breakthrough Prayer...

Breakthrough Prayer

Sara Watne

Loving God of all, renew our hearts and minds.
Reveal your wildest dreams, break through to each of us.
Unite us in your vision, equip us for your work.
Transform us by your song, create our harmony.
May we embrace your future, and be your loving church. Amen.

Please join your church in praying the Breakthrough Prayer daily at 8:35.

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace

Bea and Gertie Melcher

May the peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet your neighbor with a sign of peace.

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

You are invited to safely light a candle or lamp to celebrate the moments this week where your life's journey met God's heart.

Celebration Music

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

by Doris M. Akers

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

John 10:7-18

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Holy One knows me and I know the Holy One. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Holy One loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from our Holy One."

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The LORD’s Prayer

Our God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving Our Tithes, Offerings, and Ourselves

*Your gift by mail, phone, or through the secure online portal at richfieldumc.org/give supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” by J. W. Johnson/J. R. Johnson

Doxology

UM Hymnal No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Gratitude

Glorious God, we know that your capacity to love is infinitely greater than our own ability. Indeed, you call us to love one another in truth and in action. We yearn to be active disciples, so that our hearts truly abide with you. Use these gifts to increase our ability to be your followers. In the name of the One who laid down his life for us, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

Gracious and loving God, thank you for the precious moments in which we felt you close to us this week. Continue to break through to each of us with your Holy Spirit and reveal your amazing love to as many people as possible. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn

“Shepherd Me, O God”

by Marty Haugen

Refrain:

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. [Refrain]
2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. [Refrain]

Benediction

...And until we meet again, let us live...
in faith, justice, and joy! Amen.

Postlude

“Lean On Me”

by Bill Withers



Thank you for worshiping as Richfield United Methodist Church.
We hope you had a good experience. Worship is over. Service begins.

Livestream Worship: youtube.com/richfieldumc
richfieldumc.org | [Richfield UMC on Facebook](#)
Get on the email list: richfieldumc.org/signup

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.

Worship Team:

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Greg Locke, Devon Olson, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Bea Melcher, Gertie Melcher, Rev. Nate Melcher,
Alicia Owens, Sara Watne

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, Garrett Johnson, Dale Olson

An Everyday Prayer Life Is for Everyone

You are invited to devote time and energy to God and neighbor every day to pray for:

- Open minds and hearts for “conflux moments.” May all experience God in their lives.
- People in need of a loving church home. May they be embraced as beloved children of God.
- Our fellow MCCI church, Brooklyn UMC. May the Spirit break through.
- We pray for all Minnesota Annual Conference churches leading into General Conference 2022. This week we pray for: Hillside UMC (Duluth), HillSpring Church (New Prague), Hilltop UMC (Mankato), Hmong Faith Fellowship (Oakdale), Hokah UMC, Holy Trinity UMC (Prior Lake), Homer UMC (Winona), Homestead UMC (Rochester), Hope UMC (Blue Earth)
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2022. This week we pray for: Mississippi Annual Conference, Missouri Annual Conference, Mountain Sky Annual Conference, Mozambique North Annual Conference
- Children near and far, all beloved of God. May all be shown safety, stability, and care.
- People facing the brokenness of inequities, poverty, loneliness, racism, toxic politics, complex family systems, and other pressing challenges amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. May all who do justice and love mercy rise up as active, partnered signs of God’s healing love.
- Our church’s people, elected leaders, paid staff, and partners. May the Spirit break through.
- Ourselves in this moment here and now. May we feel God’s creativity, Jesus’s hope, and the Holy Spirit’s call in our struggles, our celebrations, and our whole lives.

Prayers for Healing:

Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Bonnie Freese, Maxene Schwanke, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, Agnes Danzl, Sara Watne’s sisters, Hope and Lora, Rexi Warner’s friend, Heidi, Laurel Lien, Lenny Klosinski, uncle of Steve Klosinski, David Berner’s father, Wilber Berner, Brian Boardman, Bob Wright, Reid, brother-in-law of John Meeker, James York, father-in-law of Randy Matheus, Caroline Riley, Sharon Morrow, and SK and Susan Johnson’s friend, Mike Hawley.

Prayers for Comfort: All those in hospice and their families.

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

Clarice Lien, and her son (and former RUMC member), Dan Lien, in the sudden death of his wife, Kristen, on March 23.

The family and friends of Judy Znerold, former RUMC member, who died April 3. A private service is planned in Des Moines.

John Meeker and family in the death of John’s sister, Michele.

Worship Online

In-person worship and gatherings in the building are suspended and we continue on an open-ended timeline. Read the latest information at richfieldumc.org/statements.

Campus and Administration

Campus is closed, including God’s Hands Thrift Store (no donations as this time, thank you).

Church staff is available by email or phone

[Rev. Nate Melcher](mailto:nate@richfieldumc.org), Senior Pastor | 612.399.6272

[Rev. Hope Bentley Hutchison](mailto:hope@richfieldumc.org), Director of Children and Family Ministries | 612.568.6774

[Kathy Newbauer](mailto:kathy@richfieldumc.org), Caring For Children Director

[Garrett Johnson](mailto:garrett@richfieldumc.org), Youth Leader

[Pat Noonan](mailto:pat@richfieldumc.org), Facilities Coordinator

[Nancy Dierauer](mailto:nancy@richfieldumc.org), Organist/Music Director

[Kay Bergeland RN](mailto:kay@richfieldumc.org), Parish Nurse

[Paige Armstrong-Hetterick](mailto:paige@richfieldumc.org), Chancel Choir Director

[Victor Zupanc](mailto:victor@richfieldumc.org), Living Waters Worship Coordinator

[Kathy Gertsema](mailto:kathy@richfieldumc.org), Business and Administration Coordinator

[Linda Schmidt](mailto:linda@richfieldumc.org), Program and Communications Coordinator

Connect as Richfield UMC

All gatherings happen through Zoom online video conferencing unless otherwise noted.

Today, April 25

10:45 am | Children's Sunday School
Contact [Rev. Hope Hutchison](#)

Tomorrow, Monday, March 26

7:00 to 8:15 pm | Monday Book Group
"I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist."
Mondays through May 17
Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546
No password needed. Join Zoom the Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/91073668546> or by
phone, call: 312 626 6799 (standard rates may apply)
On Apr. 26 we'll talk about chapters 3 and 4.
This group is open to anyone with an interest.
This book is available [here](#) or at other book
retailers.

Next Sunday, May 2

10:45 am | [CAFÉ-O-RAMA](#)
Meeting ID: 843-4704-2137, Passcode: 5835 A
relaxed, inviting opportunity to spend time with
new and old friends. It's like coffee in The
Commons...except you bring your own coffee!

New Regathering Survey

The Regathering Taskforce will premiere the
next congregation-wide survey on May 2. Please
be sure to complete it before 11:59 pm on May
11. The survey will go out to those with an
email address on-file and arrangements will be
made for those not online (if you don't know if
we have your email address, please pass it
along immediately to rumc@richfieldumc.org).

New Opportunities

Indigenous Sacred Sites Tour

Contact Pastor Nate by May 9 if you are
interested. nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or
612.399.6272 Church Mobile
The Sacred Sites tour is of locations around
what is now the Twin Cities metro that are of
cultural and religious significance to Indigenous
Peoples. Pandemic-era tours are in groups of 15
and are \$60 per person (scholarships available).

Pilgrimage to George Floyd Square

Contact Pastor Nate by May 9 if you are
interested. nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or
612.399.6272 Church Mobile
We will try to set up a pilgrimage to happen
prior to May 25, the one-year anniversary of
George Floyd's death.

Are You Ready For Membership at RUMC?

Contact Pastor Nate by May 9 if you are
interested. nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or
612.399.6272 Church Mobile
This spring, we will welcome new members to
this church. Please contact Pastor Nate to set
up a Zoom meeting. Learn about membership at
richfieldumc.org/membership.

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
May 3: *A Discovery of Witches* by D. Harkness
Contact, email [both](#) [Fern Albertson](#) and
[Molly Reko](#)

Tuesdays, 9:30 am | Women's Bible Study
Contact [Molly Reko](#) to get connected.

Wednesdays, 9:00 am | Men's Bible Study
Contact [Kent Johnson](#) to get connected.

Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group
Contact [Kent Johnson](#) to get connected.



Check-In

Help your church track worship trends,
thank you. richfieldumc.org/hereiam



Worship by Touch Tone Phone

Friends and family who aren't online can
listen to worship live by touchtone phone.
Call toll-free at 1.888.650.5835. "Press 1"
to opt-in to receive an automatic call on
Sundays as worship begins.



Latest from Richfield UMC

Weekly announcements, events, worship
preparation, and reflection, [sign up](#).



Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is available from the clergy
team, Parish Nurse, and care ministry
volunteers. You don't have to go through
times of sickness, loneliness, or hurt alone.
If you need prayer or other pastoral care,
please contact [Kay Bergeland](#).

Worshipping from Home

**Prepare your worship space with care and
delight.** Download or print a bulletin and
safely light a candle or lamp.
Find more tips at richfieldumc.org/live.

Your generous gift supports the ministry,
outreach, and operations
of your church. richfieldumc.org/give

Livestream Troubleshooting: Try refreshing
the page, restarting your device or the
YouTube app, using a different web browser
(Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.), clearing your
browser cache, or adjusting your settings (ex:
lower your resolution quality from 1080p HD to
720p HD). For more help, reach
out: worshiptech@richfieldumc.org.

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